

The Business Farmer's Page

HAYING TIME

Eight Tons an Acre.
JOHN ASHLEY.

It is said the average crop of hay per acre is one ton for the first mowing and if the weather is favorable a half a ton for the second. The selling price for this amounts to about \$27, the cost of producing and harvesting it.

In contrast to this, there is the case of a man who had a small village farm, devoted to a garden, a bit of lawn, an acre of grass land and an acre reserved for crops for his horse and cow. From the grass land he averaged between eight and ten tons of hay, and as his methods of seeding and care were very simple and easy to imitate it may be of interest to know something of them in detail. When the property was first purchased the new owner started in to improve it, going over the grass land with a double action cutaway harrow twice the first week in half laps and the second time at right angles to the first. He continued to do this until August, when the foul roots remaining were raked out and burned. An eight foot smoothing harrow with a leveling board attached was next used until the surface was true. The land was then plowed with a twenty-four inch cutaway plow to a depth of six inches, the disk being set at a considerable angle. Then the surface was again trued as before. Finally the field was harrowed weekly until the 1st of September.

Final Preparation.

The land being level, it was left bare until spring and then was harrowed again and sowed to oats to be cut for hay. When this had been harvested the field was gone over twice in half laps with a double action harrow, the second time at right angles to the first. The second week it was plowed and harrowed and after that harrowed weekly for four weeks, followed by one more plowing. On Sept. 1 fourteen quarts each of timothy and reseeded redtop were sown, and before harrowing in the seed 600 pounds of the following mixture of commercial fertilizer were carefully and evenly broadcasted: Nitrate of soda, 60 pounds; muriate of potash, 240 pounds; bonemeal, 300 pounds. The piece was then harrowed in four directions with a smoothing harrow. The following April the land was rolled and 450 pounds of the following fertilizer spread: Bone, 150 pounds; potash, 150 pounds; nitrate of soda, 150 pounds. The result of this thorough preparation and care is evidenced in the splendid appearance of the grass, although it has been seeded six years. Soon after the first crop had been cut 200 pounds of the spring fertilizer were broadcasted, and these two applications of fertilizer are given annually.

HELPING OUT PASTURES BY SOILING CROPS

JARED VAN WAGENEN, JR.

Thoughtful dairymen realize that, while in northern states cows are in the field five months, yet there are only about six weeks or two months when pasture alone is sufficient to enable them to do good work, so progressive dairymen are adopting some plan of supplementing pastures and thus maintaining a better flow of milk throughout the year. There are various ways of doing this. Merely feeding grain in connection with scanty pasture is expensive and unsatisfactory. The cost is too great. Besides, what is needed is some form of fresh, succulent food rather than dry grain. It is possible to plan a succession of soiling crops which maintain a constant supply of green food throughout the summer. He may plan rye sown in the fall to furnish green rye in early spring. This may be followed ten days later by green wheat, which may be followed by alfalfa, which can be fed until the first cutting of red clover. When the clover begins to harden a plot of peas and oats will just be coming into head, and if there have been two or three sowings of these a week or ten days apart they will last until the early corn is ready to feed, and the corn—first the early and then the later varieties—will last until frost. It would even be possible to add a crop of rape to feed until cold weather.

Summer Silage Best.

Now, the foregoing is a very fine theory of cow feeding, but it doesn't work in practice. Some crops may be partial failures and some may be used before the next is ready; also, soiling cows means cutting and drawing green food every day regardless of weather conditions or what other work presses. All these considerations have led the writer to feel that there is just one best way to supplement pastures, and that is by feeding when needed corn silage put in the previous autumn.

There are several reasons why this is the best way. One is that the possible food production from an acre of corn is much greater than from these other crops. Another is, it is possible to put this corn in the silo just when it is at its best, whereas other crops will frequently be either too green or too ripe just when we need them.

The difference in labor between going for a load of green oats or throwing out a supply of silage from a convenient silo speaks for itself.

The better dairymen we are the more we shall feed cows in addition to pasture, and summer silo is the easiest way to provide the needed feed.

SOME SECRETS OF SWEET CORN

Quality Is What Counts.
P. K. EDWARDS.

Nearly every one plants sweet corn of some kind in the garden. When we refer to it, however, we mean "quality" sweet corn, that delectable, melting feast of sweetness which the average gardener gets from his hill only two or three times a season.

But to have a continuous supply of the best corn in the best condition one must know just how to arrange for it, when to pick it and how to cook it. Now there are two methods of raising it, either by repeated plantings at intervals of one or two weeks or by planting several varieties at one time, selected to mature in succession as a supply for several weeks may be had from a single planting, so that only two plantings will be required. Each plan has its good points. Where space is limited successive planting will, of course, be preferable, and the matter of variety as governing quality is also important.

New Varieties.

Of the several different kinds the following varieties have been tried with success: Golden Rod, Golden Bantam, Hiawatha, Pochontas, Early Champion, Crosby's Early, the Henderson, Country Gentleman and Stowell's Evergreen. The Golden Rod is a cross between Stowell's Evergreen and Golden Bantam and is a happy combination of blending the good qualities of both. It is one of the "midseason" varieties. Henderson's Pochontas is an extra early variety, and, while not equal to some of the later kinds, it is well worth a place in the garden. Several other familiar varieties—namely, the Golden Bantam and Country Gentleman, also have that deservedly noted sweet flavor of the Golden Rod and Hiawatha.

The land for corn should be thoroughly manured, or lacking manure, use a liberal amount of market garden brand of commercial fertilizer or a mixture known as 4-8-11—that is, 4 per cent nitrogen, 8 per cent phosphoric acid and 11 per cent potash. In addition to this a good handful of hen manure in the bottom of each hill, with a little earth spread over it, is one of the very best manures for corn, and at the second hoeing work a handful of nitrate of soda into the soil about the hills. Plant the corn in drills, dropping the seed about nine inches apart and run the rows east and west if possible, but do not "hill up" for, like other shallow rooted plants, corn feeds near the surface, and if we keep heaping up the earth around the stalk the roots, which have wandered off, are partly uncovered.

THE SUMMER FEEDING OF POULTRY

More Succulent Food and Less Fat Forming Food Is Best.
A. F. HUNTER.

The summer feeding of poultry should be different from cold weather feeding, and when the feeding is rightly done our poultry may be decidedly profitable in summer. It is too frequently an unprofitable part of the farm. The most important change in the ration is a lessening of the fat forming food, which will affect a lowering of the animal heat and increase the bodily comfort, and we should increase the proportion of succulent (or green) food.

On most farms the hens are kept closely confined in summer to prevent raids upon the garden and growing crops. This confinement in a hen-house and yard cuts them off from needed exercise and equally needed green food. To balance these defects there should be a widening of the grain ration, and green food should be liberally supplied. There should be an increase of wheat bran and middlings in the mash mixture and a cutting down of the proportion of whole (or cracked) corn that is fed. An extremely hot weather no corn whatever should be fed, the whole grain feed being wheat, oats and a little barley.

Provide Plenty of Shade.

The hens should be as cool as possible in summer, and to that end the houses should be very much open in front, so they will be comfortably cool at night. And there should be shady loafing places in which the birds may pass the hotter hours of the day. If there is no natural shade, as of fruit trees, a shed roof 6 by 8 feet in size, two feet high at the back and three feet high in front, the roof sloping to the south should be put up for the birds to take refuge under. A simple shelter of this type will pay for itself over and over again. Abundant green food must be fed. This may be vegetable tops or weeds from garden, lawn mower clippings, etc. There is wide range of choice, as almost everything that is fresh and succulent will be relished by fowls that are confined.

And abundant drink must be supplied. They should have all the fresh, clean water they will drink and may also be given all the skim milk they will drink. Milk is best fed sour, but should be always sweet or always sour. Milk is good for fowls at all times and is especially good in warm weather, but water they must have. It is best to have two drinking pans or fountains, one for fresh water and the other for milk and they must be kept clean. Then the birds can drink from either, as they prefer.

Saved Girl's Life

"I want to tell you what wonderful benefit I have received from the use of Thedford's Black-Draught," writes Mrs. Sylvania Woods, of Clifton Mills, Ky.

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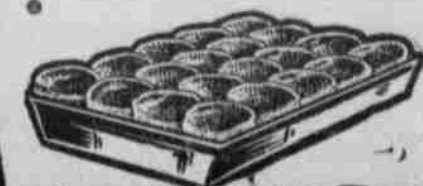
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Office in rear of Anadarko National Bank Building

Notice

Department of the Interior
U. S. Indian Service,
Kiowa Indian Agency,
Anadarko, Oklahoma, May 19, 1914.
Sealed Proposals, plainly marked on envelope "Proposals for 11 four room houses for Apache Indians," and addressed to the Superintendent of the Kiowa Indian Agency, Anadarko, Oklahoma, will be received at the Agency until 2 o'clock P. M. May 29, 1914.

For the convenience of bidders, plans and specifications have been placed with the First National Bank of Apache, Oklahoma, for examination and also at the Agency office in Anadarko.

Ernest Steaker,
Superintendent,

Go to Paul Kaiser's for Steffen's Ice Cream.

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3 room house, 50 ft. lot, well and pump, cement walk in front. For short time only Price \$250.
Baldwin & Gibbs,

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Peeler of Guthrie, who have been visiting the former's sister Mrs. J. F. McDavitt and husband returned home Wednesday.

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Mrs. Effie Parks came in from Ft. Cobb Wednesday where she has been visiting her sister Mrs. Gilbert. She went to Lawton to attend the graduating exercises.

Crucible steel cotton chopping hoes sold at Meeting Hardware Co., Anadarko.